

## CLAIMS

**Please amend the claims as follows:**

1. (previously presented) A method for efficiently merging subnets comprising the steps of:  
linking a first subnet, having a first subnet manager and a first database utilized to control the entire first subnet, with a second subnet, having a second subnet manager and a second database utilized to control the entire second subnet, to create a merged subnet;

wherein said first and second database comprise configuration entries, each including time-stamped a partition key (P\_Key) and global unique identifier (GUID), which time-stamp indicates a time that said configuration entries are created and modified by respective ones of said first and second subnet managers; and

dynamically selecting and configuring one of said first subnet manager and said second subnet manager as a master subnet manager, which controls the entire merged subnet, wherein control of the entire merged subnet includes control of both said first subnet and said second subnet, wherein said dynamically selecting and configuring includes:

determining that a first P\_Key entry of a GUID of said second database of said second subnet manager is the same as a second P\_key entry of a different GUID of said first database; and

in response to said determining, changing all occurrences of said P\_Key in said second database to a new P\_Key value that is not one of said P\_Key values within said first database and said second database.

2. (canceled)

3. (previously presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein said first subnet manager is selected as said master subnet manager, said method further comprising the step of:

absorbing said subnet configuration entries from said database of the second subnet manager to said database of said master subnet manager to create a merged database of subnet configuration entries.

4. (original) The method of Claim 3, wherein said absorbing step further comprises the steps of:

determining that a first GUID entry of said second database is the same as a second GUID entry of said first database; and

in response to said determining step, selecting a most recent time-stamped GUID entry from among said first GUID entry and said second GUID entry as a representative GUID entry for said merged database.

5. (original) The method of Claim 4, further comprising the step of discarding a GUID entry not selected as said representative GUID entry.

6. (canceled)

7. (original) The method of Claim 1, wherein said first and second subnets each comprises multiple nodes wired together to create a wired subnet that is controlled by a single subnet manager, and said selecting step provides a single master subnet manager, and further comprises de-activating the management function of the subnet manager not selected as the single master subnet manager.

8. (original) The method of Claim 3, further comprising the step of configuring said merged subnet utilizing said master subnet manager.

9-20. (canceled)